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Docket No.: R2184.0258/P258
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Yoshiyuki Sasaki

Application No.: 10/632,968

Confirmation No.: 4462

Filed: August 4, 2003

Art Unit: 2627

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS OF
RECORDING INFORMATION IN
REDUCED WAITING TIME

Examiner: Gautam R. Patel

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated September 1, 2006, please reconsider the above-referenced application in light of the following:

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing every "feature/step" of the invention specified in the claims. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The first through fifth steps of claims 1, 5 and 6 are illustrated in Figs. 4 and 7, through S401, S407, S483, S417, and S423, respectively. Please refer to the specification, page 37, lines 4-10. The output and response parts of claims 12 and 14 are

illustrated in Figs. 1, 4 and 7, as likewise explained in the specification, page 36, lines 7-13 , 19 and 20.

Claims 1-7, 12-17 and 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Hashimoto. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claim 1 recites the step of "outputting . . . termination information indicative of termination of . . . initialization before said initialization starts." An important aspect of the method of claim 1 is that the "information indicative of termination of the initialization" is outputted "before said initialization starts." Hashimoto fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of the claimed invention. In contrast to the claimed invention, the Hashimoto system informs a host of the completion of a formatting process after the formatting process starts. In the Hashimoto system, immediately after the formatting process is started, the controller 9 outputs, in step S11, a message to a host computer so as to notify a user (the host computer) that the formatting process has been completed. In the Hashimoto system, the message is sent after the formatting process is started. Please refer to Applicant's specification, page 3, lines 20+, which discusses Hashimoto.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable along with claim 1. Claims 12-17 and 22-27 recite limitations similar to those discussed above and should be allowable for similar and other reasons.

Allowance of the application with claims 1-29 is solicited.

Dated: November 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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